

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9706

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3867

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP VE

SUBJECT: SECVISIT LATIN AMERICA -- MRS. ROGERS' SCHEDULE IN
VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 085765

1. PURSUANT TO PARA. 1 REFTEL WE HAVE INVITED VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENTS VIEWS AS TO MOST USEFUL AND MEANINGFUL PROGRAM FOR MRS. ROGERS, MRS. CASEY AND MRS. KUBISCH. IN VIEW OF PRESUMPTION THAT MRS. CALVANI, WIFE OF FONMIN, AND PERHAPS EVEN MRS. CALDERA, WIFE OF PRESIDENT, WILL WISH TO DETERMINE OR ASSOCIATE SELVES WITH PROGRAM FOR VISITING LADIES, IT IS NOT FEASIBLE FOR US TO DRAW UP A PROGRAM WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THEM. WE HAVE HOWEVER SUGGESTED FOR CONSIDERATION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHERS INVOLVED THE LIST OF POSSIBLE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED PARA. 2 CARACAS 3601.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS AGREED TO DO ALL IT CAN TO PUSH THIS MATTER AND TO INFORM US AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. IT REITERATES ITS QUESTION REPORTED IN PARA. 3 CARACAS 3812 AS TO WHETHER ANY OTHER LADIES FOR WHOM PROGRAM APPROPRIATE INCLUDED IN PARTY. REALISTICALLY, WE MUST ANTICIPATE SOME DELAY IN FIRING UP PROGRAM SINCE MRS. CALDERA IS OUT OF CARACAS ON THREE- DAY TRIP. UPON RECEIPT OF INFORMATION AS TO LADIES' PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT WILL BE ADVISED SOONEST.

3. IN RESPONSE PARA 2 REFTEL, AMBASSADOR INDICATES HIS WIFE,
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WHO IS EXPRESSLY RETURNING FROM EUROPE, WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MRS. ROGERS' SCHEDULE. PENDING MRS. MCCLINTOCK' S RETURN, MRS. FRANK DEVINE WIFE OF DCM, WILL HAVE SUCH RESPONSIBILITY. BIODATA ON MR THE PRESS AT THIS MOMENT WHEN HE

IS BEING RE- UNITED WITH HIS FAMILY FOLLOWING HIS ORDEAL. HOWEVER, HE HAS ASKED ME TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN HIS NAME:

QUOTE: I CAN ONLY EXPRESS HOW HAPPY I AM TO BE FREE AGAIN AND WITH MY FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES, BOTH MEXICAN AND AMERICAN. IN ADDITION, I WISH TO THANK THE MANY PEOPLE WHO WORKED IN MY BEHALF, ESPECIALLY THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES WHOSE CONSTANT CONCERN LED TO MY RELEASE. END QUOTE.

IN ADDITION, ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES HERE AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL AND THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO AND ALL OF THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR CONCERN AND THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE SAFE RETURN OF MR. LEONHARDY.

THE ORDEAL WHICH CONSUL GENERAL LEONHARDY HAS EXPERIENCED EMPHASIZES ONCE AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER TO TAKE FIRM MEASURES TO COMBAT THE MENACE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH IS AFFLICTING MANKIND.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND DETAILS CONCERNING MR. LEONHARDY' S DETENTION AND RELEASE, I SUGGEST THAT YOU CONTACT THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.

END TEXT.

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3. IF ASKED, WE BELIEVE SPOKESMAN SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS INDICATED BELOW:

QUESTION: DID THE U. S. GOVERNMENT PROVIDE ALL OR ANY PART OF THE RANSOM?

ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: DID MRS. LEONHARDY PROVIDE ANY OF THE RANSOM?

ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: CAN YOU GIVE US FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT
THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE KIDNAPPERS AND HOW
MR. LEONHARDY' S RELEASE WAS OBTAINED?

ANSWER: AS I HAVE ALREADY INDICATED, YOU SHOULD
ADDRESS QUESTIONS OF THIS TYPE TO THE MEXICAN
AUTHORITIES.

4. WE CANNOT FORESEE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS THAT WE BELIEVE
SHOULD BE ANSWERED ON THE SPOT. HOWEVER, TASK FORCE POST
IN WASHINGTON WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY MANNED IN EVENT EITHER
MEXICO CITY OR GUADALAJARA DESIRES CONSULT FURTHER WITH
US ON FOREGOING GUIDANCE.

5. FYI: DEPARTMENT WILL PROBABLY TAKE EARLY OCCASION IN
WASHINGTON TO RE- AFFIRM EXPLICITLY WELL KNOWN USG POLICY
AGAINST ACCEDING TO DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS AND TERRORISTS,
BUT, AS DISCUSSED IN REF TELECON, WE AGREE THAT IT NEED
NOT BE DONE IN CIRCUMSTANCES ENVISAGED ABOVE. END FYI.
ROGERS

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